

## **Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation**

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**An Economic Development District  
covering Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, and  
Wibaux counties in eastern Montana**

**February 12, 2009**

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2/13/09  
HB 411

**To: Representative Bill McChesney  
Members of House Natural Resources Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
Helena, Montana**

**Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee:**

House Bill 411 represents a step forward with regard to mitigating flood issues facing a great many communities across Montana and I would like to express my strong support in its favor. Flood issues are a road block to economic development that is too significant for small cities and towns to overcome without assistance.

The City of Glendive and Dawson County have been attempting to mitigate flood issues for twenty years with no success. Proposed solutions are far too expensive to be totally absorbed at the local level. Business departures result in vacant buildings within the floodplain and expansion opportunities of existing businesses have been derailed due to regulations directly related to their location in the floodplain.

When we think of infrastructure we traditionally think of things like "streets, water, sewer, schools, and bridges". I would argue that dikes and other flood abatement tools in many instances are as critical as those I outlined above. House Bill 411 is a step toward acknowledging the problem as a significant infrastructure issue within the state and putting a mechanism in place to assist communities, much like is done with water and sewer projects.

Again, as a member of the economic development community, I urge you to support this bill. It is an issue that will stop economic development in its tracks.

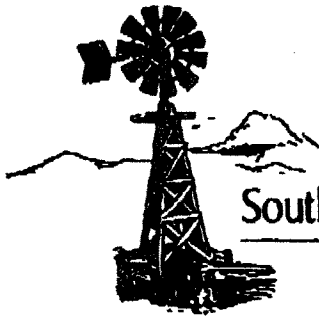
Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



**Jason Rittal, Executive Director**

**Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation**



## SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation

*Growing Montana ~ One Job at a Time*

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February 11, 2009

House Natural Resources Committee  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

**RE: Strong Support for HB - 411**

Dear Natural Resources Committee Members:

As an economic development professional, involved in the day-to-day economic activity in southeastern Montana, I would like to express my strong **Support for HB - 411**.

From Livingston to Sidney, from Broadus to Terry, from Decker to Miles City, whether it's the Yellowstone, Tongue or the Powder Rivers, flood control and damage issues are acting like a huge "parking brake" on economic and community development opportunities throughout southeastern Montana.

I know passing HB - 411 will be mutually beneficial and I encourage you to do that.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Atchison".

Jim Atchison  
Executive Director  
Southeastern Montana Development

## MILES CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

1010 Main Street, Miles City, Montana 59301  
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February 12, 2009

Montana House of Representatives  
House Natural Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the Miles City Area Economic Development Council and the Council's Board of Directors I would like to encourage the House Natural Resources Committee to **support HB411** for development of a Flood Damage Mitigation Assistance Program sponsored by Representative Bill McChesney.

Since the first meetings with FEMA concerning flood control in Miles City and the other communities such as Glendive and Livingston it has become apparent that the extent to which these cities must address flood damage mitigation will have an enormous impact on our towns financially and emotionally. We cannot begin to handle this flood damage mitigation without the state's help.

This legislation offers the opportunity for assistance to our communities that we would otherwise not have and sets up a protocol and process that will effectively assist us financially and yet allow the state to have controls to monitor the assistance. We need your help and through providing technical and financial assistance this legislation outlines, the State of Montana is reaching out to assist their own in a great time of need.

We are already feeling the impacts of the Flood Plain issue in our community to economic development business opportunities, to our residents and to real estate development and planning. I myself am in the process of trying to find a home in Miles City and because of the flood plain issue and potential impact I am extremely limited in where I can locate. And once the final FEMA report is complete we are faced with some potentially extreme consequences. We need your help.

It is of dire importance to our community that you, as our state legislatures, offer your support by saying **YES to HB411**.

Sincerely,



Mike Coryell, Executive Director  
Miles City Area Economic Development Council

300 South Merrill  
Glendive, Montana 59330



Phone (406) 377-3318  
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February 11, 2009

To Representative Bill McChesney  
All Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

Montana House of Representatives  
Helena, Montana

Dear Committee Members:

For the record I am writing a letter of support on behalf of the City of Glendive for HB411 introduced by Rep. McChesney. This Bill would provide much needed assistance for all Communities in Montana that are faced with mitigation of preventing or recovery from flooding. The enormous costs associated with this problem are more than any Community can begin to prepare for.

The City of Glendive has been trying to mitigate the flood plain problem with the Army Corp of Engineers for over 20 years now, and any proposed solution is far too expensive for our city of 5,000 residents to absorb. Our support for HB411 is what we believe to be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jimison, Mayor  
City of Glendive